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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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1. The German delegates to the Prague meeting of the Soviet-bloc foreign ministers (20-23 October) were Georg Dertinger, Anton Ackermann, Helene Berner (Dertinger's assistant), Peter Florin (chief of the political division of the Foreign Ministry), Wilhelm Heissner (formerly Grotewohl's assistant in the ZK of the SED, now chief of the press section in the Foreign Ministry). Intensive preparations began on 17 October with a two-hour visit by Ambassador G.I. Pushkin to Dertinger; a session of the Kleine Kommission of the Foreign Ministry; and an extended meeting between Dertinger and Ambassador V.S. Semenov in the evening. At the same time a brief history of the alleged "splitting" tactics of the western powers in Germany was hurriedly put together by the Ministry staff for the delegation.
2. Foreign Minister V.M. Molotov arrived in Prague with Gribanov, head of the German desk of the USSR Foreign Ministry, carrying the complete text of the document which was published unchanged at the end of the meeting. The Poles and Czechs suggested a few changes, which were rejected. One suggestion was the inclusion of a paragraph on ex-German officers active in West Germany, under the general heading of war criminals. Molotov vetoed this, saying that all German war criminals were sentenced in Nuremberg. There was some discussion of the word "parity" in point 4 of the program, but the word was left in.
3. Molotov told Dertinger his chief task now was to enter into peaceful diplomatic negotiations with responsible West German politicians, in order to implement the Prague program.
4. Dertinger remarked in the course of a private conversation after his return

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6. Since his return, however, Dertinger has remarked that the CDU must cooperate completely with the SED in the next two years or go under. Thus, propaganda work in behalf of the National Front, begun for the October elections, is to continue indefinitely, and all responsible government functionaries must make regular visits to their assigned "Patenkreise" to speak for the National Front.
7. The satellite delegates were evidently impressed by the outcome of the DDR election. Molotov was visibly impressed. Dertinger won a case of champagne from Pushkin on an election bet, Pushkin betting the DDR would get not more than a 75 percent affirmative vote.
8. Walter Ulbricht remarked to Dertinger in September 1950 that it was high time Ackermann got out of the Foreign Ministry in order to work on West German problems in the SED ZK. Dertinger said that he would resign if Ackermann were taken from him.***
9. The ban on leaves for Foreign Ministry personnel has been lifted. It had been imposed in the first place because many of the senior officials were compelled to devote their time to electioneering, and all the rest of the staff had to stay on the job to carry on the affairs of the Ministry. 25X1
- * Comment: This is difficult to evaluate. Dertinger's remark was made under the influence of alcohol. There is no other evidence of a security guarantee, either written or oral, nor is the precise formulation given. 25X1
- ** Comment: This is also difficult to evaluate, as Dertinger is prone to think in terms of the security of his own position first. 25X1
- *** Comment: This is in regard to rumors that Dertinger is slated for removal as Foreign Minister. Whatever reshuffling does take place in the DDR ministries will probably come after the session of the Volkskammer early in November.